
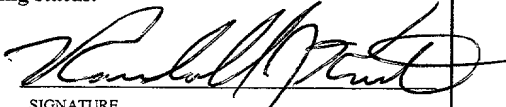


FORM PTO-1390 (REV 12-29-99)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER <b>FUK-75</b>	
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371				U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 35 C.F.R. 1.5) <b>09/622397</b>	
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. <b>PCT/JP99/00936</b>		INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE <b>February 26, 1999</b>		PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED <b>February 27, 1998</b>	
TITLE OF INVENTION <b>SURFACE TREATING FOR MICROMACHINING AND METHOD FOR SURFACE TREATMENT</b>					
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US <b>Hirohisa KIKUYAMA et al.</b>					
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:					
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>FIRST</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</li> <li>2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</li> <li>3. <input type="checkbox"/> This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).</li> <li>4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.</li> <li>5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).</li> <li>b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been transmitted by the International Bureau.</li> <li>c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).</li> <li>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input type="checkbox"/> are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).</li> <li>b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been transmitted by the International Bureau.</li> <li>c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.</li> <li>d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made.</li> </ol> </li> <li>8. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).</li> <li>9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).</li> <li>10. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).</li> </ol>					
<b>Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:</b>					
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.</li> <li>12. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.</li> <li>13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <b>FIRST</b> preliminary amendment. <input type="checkbox"/> A <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> preliminary amendment.</li> <li>14. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification.</li> <li>15. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.</li> <li>16. <input type="checkbox"/> Other items or information:</li> </ol>					

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.53) <b>09/622397</b>		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. <b>PCT/JP99/00936</b>		ATTORNEY'S DECKET NUMBER <b>FUK-75</b>	
17 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted: <b>BASIC NATIONAL FEE ( 37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5) ) :</b> Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO ..... \$970.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO ..... \$840.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO ..... \$690.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... \$670.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... \$96.00 <b>ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =</b>				<b>CALCULATIONS</b> PTO USE ONLY \$ <b>840.00</b>	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				\$ <b>0</b>	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE		
Total claims	<b>19</b> - 20 =	<b>0</b>	X \$18.00	\$ <b>0</b>	
Independent claims	<b>1</b> - 3 =	<b>0</b>	X \$78.00	\$ <b>0</b>	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ \$260.00	\$ <b>0</b>	
<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =</b>				\$ <b>840.00</b>	
Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. A Small Entity Statement must also be filed (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).				\$ <b>0</b>	
<b>SUBTOTAL =</b>				\$ <b>840.00</b>	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).				\$ <b>0</b>	
<b>TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =</b>				\$ <b>840.00</b>	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property +				\$ <b>0</b>	
<b>TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =</b>				\$ <b>840.00</b>	
				Amount to be refunded:	\$
				charged:	\$
a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ <b>840.00</b> to cover the above fees is enclosed.				Check No. 4479	
b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.					
c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <b>501157</b> . A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.					
<b>NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.</b>					
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO					
CUSTOMER NO: 22855					
					
<b>22855</b>					
Telephone No. 219-485-6001					
Facsimile No. 219-486-2794					
				SIGNATURE  <b>Randall J. Knuth</b> NAME <b>34,644</b> REGISTRATION NUMBER	



# VERIFICATION OF CORRECTED TRANSLATION OF CLAIMS

I, the below named translator, hereby declare that:

My name and post office address are as stated below;

That I am knowledgeable in the English language and in the language in which the international application PCT/JP99/00936 was filed; and that the attached corrected English translation of the claims for the international application PCT/JP99/00936 is a true and complete translation.

I further declare that the correction is necessary due to an erroneous typo which was originally filed in the national stage filing of international application PCT/JP99/00936 on August 16, 2000 in the United States Patent and Trademark Office under Application Serial No. 09/622,397.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of the translator:

Satoshi HOSHIKOSHI

Signature of the translator:

*Satoshi Hoshikoshi*

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November 27, 2000

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JAPAN

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of )  
Hirohisa KIKUYAMA et al. ) Group:  
Serial No.: )  
Filed: August 16, 2000 ) Examiner:  
Title: SURFACE TREATING FOR MICROMACHINING )  
AND METHOD FOR SURFACE TREATMENT )

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicant hereby submits the following Amendment.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the specification on file with the enclosed  
SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the following:

1. (Amended) A micromachining surface treatment material  
containing less than 0.1% hydrofluoric acid, and more than 40% by  
weight, but less than or equal to 47% by weight of ammonium  
fluoride.

2. (Amended) The micromachining surface treatment material  
of Claim 1, manufactured by dissolving ammonia gas in a  
hydrofluoric acid solution.

3. (Amended) The micromachining surface treatment material  
of Claim 1 [or Claim 2], containing a surfactant at 0.0001 [-] to  
1% by weight.

4. (Amended) The micromachining surface treatment material of Claim 3, said surfactant is one of, or two or more of, a fatty amine ( $C_nH_{2n+1}NH_2$ ; [m]n=7 [-] to 14), a fatty carboxylic acid ( $C_nH_{2n+1}COOH$ ; n = 5 [-] to 11), or a fatty alcohol ( $C_nH_{2n+1}OK$ ; n = 6 [-] to 12).

5. (Amended) A surface treatment method that removes a natural oxidation layer inside contact holes using the micromachining surface treatment material of [any one of Claims 1 to 3] Claim 1.

6. (Amended) The surface treatment method of Claim 5, wherein [the diameter of the contact holes is less than or equal surface treatment method of Claim 5 or Claim 6, wherein] the contact holes open to an oxidation film.

7. (Amended) The surface treatment method of [any one of] Claim 5 [to Claim 7], wherein the oxidation film is a CVD type oxidation film.

8. (Amended) The surface treatment method of [any one of] Claim 5 [to Claim 7], wherein the oxidation film is a TEOS type oxidation film.

9. (New) The micromachining surface treatment material of Claim 2, containing a surfactant at 0.0001 to 1% by weight.

10. (New) A surface treatment method that removes a natural oxidation layer inside contact holes using the micromachining surface treatment material of Claim 2.

11. (New) A surface treatment method that removes a natural oxidation layer inside contact holes using the micromachining surface treatment material of Claim 3.

12. (New) The surface treatment method of Claim 10, wherein the contact holes open to an oxidation film.

13. (New) The surface treatment method of Claim 11, wherein the contact holes open to an oxidation film.

14. (New) The surface treatment method of Claim 10, wherein the oxidation film is a CVD type oxidation film.

15. (New) The surface treatment method of Claim 11, wherein the oxidation film is a CVD type oxidation film.

16. (New) The surface treatment method of Claim 12, wherein the oxidation film is a CVD type oxidation film.

17. (New) The surface treatment method of Claim 13, wherein the oxidation film is a CVD type oxidation film.

18. (New) The surface treatment method of Claim 10, wherein the oxidation film is a TEOS type oxidation film.


19. (New) The surface treatment method of Claim 13, wherein the oxidation film is a TEOS type oxidation film.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the abstract on file with the attached  
ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments that would speed prosecution of this case, he is invited to call the undersigned at 219/485-6001.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Randall J. Knuth  
Registration No. 34,644

RJK/jrc

Encs: SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION  
ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

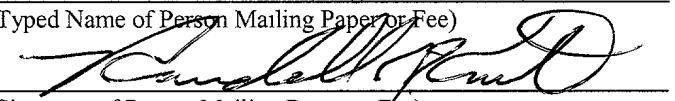
RANDALL J. KNUTH, P.C.  
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Date of Deposit August 16, 2000

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231

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(Typed Name of Person Mailing Paper or Fee)

  
(Signature of Person Mailing Paper or Fee)

# ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides a micromachining surface treatment material for and a surface treatment method that suppress widening of the diameter of contact holes when removing a natural oxidation layer arising at bottom sections of the contact holes. The micromachining surface treatment material contains less than 0.1% hydrofluoric acid, and more than 40% by weight but less than or equal to 47% by weight of ammonium fluoride. Also, a surfactant is contained therein in an amount from 0.0001 to 0.1% by weight.



SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION

SURFACE TREATING FOR MICROMACHINING  
AND SURFACE TREATMENT METHOD

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the invention.

The present invention relates to a surface treating for micromachining and surface treatment method, and more specifically to a surface etching material and a surface etching method using this material that are extremely effective when used for cleaning in a wet process for microscopic processing of oxide at the time of manufacturing a semiconductor element, and for cleaning a surface or a semiconductor element surface that has been microscopically processed.

2. Description of the related art.

In wet processes for semiconductor integrated circuits, there are increasing demands for cleaning, precision and increase in speed for cleaning, etching and patterning of a wafer surface and a micromachined surface accompanying the development of integrated circuits. A mixed solution of HF and ammonium fluoride ( $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$ ) (buffered hydrofluoric acid), along with a micromachining surface treatment material essential to this process, is used for the purpose of cleaning, etching and patterning, but for ultra high integration in the submicron range there is a need to improve performance and functionality.

Particularly, with the advancement of high integration, it has become possible to make contact holes as small as  $0.25\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ , or  $0.18\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ . The number of wires and the number of manufacturing steps have also increased. Also with respect to interlayer insulation film, as well as conventional CVD films, organic TEOS films are also being used.

When this TEOS film is used, a heat treatment process is carried out at a temperature of  $500^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $800^{\circ}\text{C}$ , but with the advancement of microscopic techniques, when making a 1 Gbit DRAM in which the wiring width and the material are limited, it is necessary for the heat treatment temperature to be kept to  $500^{\circ}\text{C}$  at the edge of a transistor and less than  $250$  to  $300^{\circ}\text{C}$  in the vicinity of the interlayer insulation film. If the heat treatment temperature is lowered, a CVD oxidation film or a TEOS film etc. have an extremely slow etching rate compared to HF chemical solution.

Also, when contact holes are processed by dry etching, for example, when dry etching is carried out with, for example, a diameter of  $0.18\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  and a depth of  $1$  to  $2\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ , precedence is given to dimensional accuracy and etching shape, which means that currently etching is performed with no consideration given to damage of the bottom of the contact holes. As a result, a substrate or a polysilicon film at the bottom of the holes is subjected to damage, and in particular about  $20\text{ nm}$  of a substrate

surface approaches amorphous silicon. Also, in the vicinity of a lower 30 nm of the substrate, is doped by ion injection of CF, being a dry etching gas.

In order to eliminate this damage, or when removing resist, a cleaning stage is becoming increasingly important, and, for example, RCA cleaning is becoming absolutely essential, but if this type of cleaning is carried out a natural oxidation film is formed, and a method of removing this natural oxidation film poses a problem.

Conventionally, removal of this type of natural oxidation film mainly utilized rare HF or buffered hydrofluoric acid (BHF). In the case of BHF it was possible to use a chemical solution of, for example, 100:1 BHF (40%  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$ :50% HF = 100:1) to etch a thermal oxidation film at 25°C, at about 10nm/min.

However, when removing a natural oxidation film at the bottom of contact holes opening onto an oxidation film (a TEOS film) heat treated at a low temperature, since the etching rate of the TEOS film of a side wall having a low heat treatment temperature is extremely slow, it is possible that holes of 0.25  $\mu\text{m}$  diameter will be widened to 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  after cleaning.

Specifically, with rare HF or 100:1 BHF, removal of a natural oxidation film is difficult from a practical standpoint without widening the hole diameter. For this reason, conventionally, patterning was performed for a 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  hole and a margin was

designed in to allow for widening due to etching. However, with the continuing progress with respect to fine patterning, with 0.18  $\mu\text{m}$  and 0.15  $\mu\text{m}$  design rules even that margin is not permissible.

5 In the removal of a natural oxidation film formed at the bottom of contact holes, it is necessary to make a selective etching ratio of the natural oxidation film etching rate to the side wall (CVD film, TEOS film etc.) etching rate large. That is, it is actually desirable to remove only the natural oxidation film. However, from a practical standpoint, the natural oxidation film etching rate is high compared to that of the CVD film or the TEOS film, and when also taking mass production processes into consideration, the time required to remove the natural oxidation film is not necessarily as short as possible. Therefore, when a wafer is processed using a wet station, in the case of an 8 inch wafer, batch processing using a cassette containing 25 wafers at one time is most common. The problem in this situation is the time to convey the wafer cassette from an etching chamber to a purified water chamber. Accordingly, the time for removing the natural oxidation film is desirably from 30 seconds to a minute, which can be mechanically controlled. Specifically, if the time taken to remove the natural oxidation film is about 10 seconds, the time that the wafer is in contact with processing fluid eventually becomes about one minute when

taking into consideration over-etching time for complete removal and conveyance time. As a result, the side wall sections of the contact holes are etched for the same amount of time.

Accordingly, the object of the present invention is to provide a surface treating for micromachining and surface treatment method that fixes etching time to about one minute, slows an etching rate of a natural oxidation film as much as possible in this range of etching time, and enables a selection ratio to that for a CVD oxidation film or a TEOS film to be made small.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The micromachining surface treatment material of the present invention contains less than 0.1% hydrofluoric acid, and more than 40% by weight but less than or equal to 47% by weight of ammonium fluoride.

The micromachining surface treatment material of the present invention is manufactured by dissolving ammonia gas in a hydrofluoric acid solution.

Further, the micromachining surface treatment material of the present invention contains a surfactant at 0.0001 to 1% by weight.

The present invention also provides a surface processing method for removing a natural oxidation layer inside a contact

hole using the above described micromachining surface treatment material.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Description will now be given of the reasons for compositional range limitations for each of the above described components.

A micromachining surface treatment material of the related art, particularly buffered hydrofluoric acid, is manufactured using a mixture of 40% by weight of  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$  and 50% by weight of  $\text{HF}$ , which means that the concentration of  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$  has an upper limit of 40% by weight.

The inventors of the present invention have discovered a method of manufacturing buffered hydrofluoric acid in which a  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$  concentration is made higher than the 40% by weight of the related art by mixing  $\text{NH}_3$  gas and  $\text{HF}$ , and that  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$  at a high concentration slows the etching rate of a CVD film or TEOS film and has sufficient performance with respect to removing a natural oxidation film. However, if with greater than 45% by weight, more crystals are deposited than chemical solution, it is difficult to advance etching response and it is easy for variations to occur, so the preferred  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$  concentration is less than or equal to 45% by weight, and the upper limit is 47% by weight.

Also, the temperature range for the chemical solution is preferably from 20 to 25°C. The temperature within the chamber is also preferably 23 to 25°C.

Specifically, with  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$  at 47% by weight and a HF concentration of 0.005% by weight, the crystal precipitation temperature becomes about 30°C and it is necessary to increase the temperature of an etching bath. It is also necessary to heat a chemical solution tank and piping, which is not practical.

Accordingly, in order to set the crystal precipitation temperature to 30°C or less the  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$  concentration is preferably 45% by weight or less.

The reason for the upper limit of 47% by weight is as follows. Specifically, cleaning and etching itself does not cause a problem with 47% by weight of  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$ . However, if the  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$  concentration becomes greater than 47% by weight the crystal precipitation temperature increases abruptly and control becomes difficult.

As one example, with a  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$  concentration of 49% by weight, the crystal precipitation temperature rises to 45°C. The crystal precipitation temperature rises by nearly 15°C because of a 2% change from 47% by weight to 49% by weight.

Accordingly, large errors do not arise because of the cleaning or etching capabilities themselves, but if temperatures rise due to difficulties in control and  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$  concentration caused

by chemical evaporation because of the high temperatures employed, the concentration range of  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$  that can be used has an upper limit of 47% by weight and is preferably less than or equal to 45% by weight.

5           The lower limit of the HF concentration in the micromachining surface treatment material of the present invention is 0.001% by weight. This is the concentration at which etching can be noticed. As an example, the etching rate of an oxide film is 0.001Å/min at 25°C.

10           The micromachining surface treatment material of the present invention preferably contains a surfactant. The included amount is preferably 0.001 to 1% by weight, and more preferably 0.005% by weight to 0.1% by weight (50ppm to 1000ppm). At a concentration lower than 0.001% by weight, the effect of addition is hardly noticeable, and at greater than 1% by weight the effects are the same.

15           The reason a surfactant is included is as follows. Specifically, if a resist interval is about 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  or less, there is a problem that it is difficult for the micromachining surface treatment material to wet the oxide film, which means that  
20           uniformity of etching the oxide film is lowered, but by adding the surfactant, wettability to the resist surface is improved, and uniformity of etching the oxide film is significantly improved. Also, When an Si surface is exposed, surface roughness



can be suppressed by the surfactant, and it is possible to realize a higher performance device.

Further, if the  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$  becomes greater than a saturation, concentration crystals precipitate, but once crystals precipitate there is a problem in that it is difficult for the crystals to return to a uniform solution at a temperature that is slightly higher. These crystals must be removed because they cause variations such as etching unevenness in particle form, but by adding the surfactant it is possible to prevent crystal particles attaching to the surface of a wafer, even if crystals do precipitate.

As the surfactant of the present invention, a fatty amine ( $\text{C}_n\text{H}_{2n+1}\text{NH}_2$ ;  $n=7$  to  $14$ ), a fatty carboxylic acid ( $\text{C}_n\text{H}_{2n+1}\text{COOH}$ ;  $n = 5$  to  $11$ ), or a fatty alcohol ( $\text{C}_n\text{H}_{2n+1}\text{OK}$ ;  $n = 6$  to  $12$ ) is preferably used. In particular, at least one of these three types of surfactant is preferably mixed, and preferably selected according to the  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$  concentration and  $\text{HF}$  concentration. Also, an isostructure is possible even if the carbon chain sections of these surfactants are linear. A particularly preferred surfactant is a fatty amine and a fatty carboxylic acid.

A manufacturing method for the micromachining surface treatment material of the present invention, as described above, can be exemplified by a method for dissolving high purity  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$  powder in  $\text{HF}$ , or a method for causing  $\text{NH}_3$  gas to be absorbed in

ultra pure water, manufacturing a high purity aqueous solution of  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$  at high concentration and mixing this with 50% by weight of HF, as well as a method for causing  $\text{NH}_3$  gas to be absorbed in a HF solution (or a method for causing  $\text{NH}_3$  gas to be absorbed in a HF solution to manufacture high concentration  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$  and mixing this with 50% by weight of HF at a desired ratio), but a method of causing  $\text{NH}_3$  gas to be absorbed in an aqueous HF solution to obtain even higher purity is most preferred.  $\text{NH}_3$  gas is caused to be absorbed in the HF aqueous solution by surface absorption or a bubbling process.

The micromachining surface treatment material of the present invention is preferably used to remove a natural oxidation film occurring on a Si surface inside contact holes formed inside an oxide film, as will be described later. Also, it does not matter whether or not heat treatment is carried out for the following oxidation films.

Oxidation film (dry oxidation film, wet oxidation film)

CVD oxidation film:non-doped

CVD oxidation film:PSG film (P-doped 1 to 8% by weight)

CVD oxidation film:BSG film (B-doped 1 to 8% by weight)

CVD oxidation film:AsSG film (As-doped 1 to 8% by weight)

CVD oxidation film:BPSG film (B, P-doped 1 to 8% by weight each)

AsSG film using ion injection:(As-doped 1 to 8% by weight)

PSG film using ion injection: (P-doped 1 to 8% by weight)

and TEOS film: non-doped film

TEOS film: non-doped film

doped TEOS film: B, P doped film, 1 to 8% by weight each

5           The present invention is described in more detail in the following with reference to the embodiments, but the present invention is not limited to these embodiments.

(Embodiment 1)

10           An example of results of evaluating chemical composition and etching rate, taking a thermal oxidation film, plasma TEOS (PL-TEOS) film and natural oxidation film as examples, is shown in Table 1.

15           In this embodiment, a thermal oxidation film is formed at 1000°C using pyrogenic oxidation ( $H_2:O_2 = 1:1$ ). Also, a PL-TEOS film is formed by a CVD method using TEOS ( $Si(OC_2H_5)_4$ ) and oxygen gas at 400°C. A natural oxidation film is formed by dipping in a mixed solution of 98%  $H_2SO_4$  and 31%  $H_2O_2$ .

On the other hand the etching rate is obtained as follows.

20           A thermal oxidation film, or a CVD or TEOS type oxidation film has film thickness measured before and after immersion in chemical solution using an optical film thickness measuring device, and etching rate is calculated from the immersion time and the amount of reduction in film thickness. The natural oxidation film has its film thickness optically measured before

immersion, the wafer immersion time is varied from 3 seconds, 5 seconds, 10 seconds... etc. and confirmation that the natural oxidation film was removed was carried out by observing the water repellent state of the wafer at those times, and etching rate was then calculated.

Here, the film thickness of the natural oxidation film has values that are converted to film thickness of the thermal oxidation film, from comparison of the ESCA Si peak strength and ellipsometrically measured film thickness of the thermal oxidation film and the natural oxidation film.

Table 1

Chemical Composition		Etching rate (nm/min) at 25°C		
HF	NH <sub>4</sub> F	Thermal	PL-TEOS	Natural
concentration	concentration	Oxidation		Oxidation
		Film		Film
0.5	39.6	9.0	15.0	45.0
0.25	39.8	5.1	9.0	28.0
0.12	41.0	3.0	6.0	13.0
0.10	41.0	2.8	4.5	9.0
0.09	39.9	2.7	5.5	11.0
0.09	17.0	2.6	9.5	36.0
0.09	40.01	2.5	8.5	9.2
0.03	45.0*	2.0	3.0	6.0
0.001	45.0*	0.2	0.5	1.0

\*The chemical composition has precipitation of crystals at 25°C, so the etching data at 35°C is shown.

As is clear from table 1, if a chemical solution having a HF concentration of less than or equal to 0.1% by weight and a NH<sub>4</sub>F concentration higher than 40% by weight is used, the etching rate

of the PL-TEOS or the thermal oxidation film are close to the etching rate of the natural oxidation film.

(Embodiment 2)

An example of evaluating chemical composition and etching rate similarly to embodiment 1, taking a thermal oxidation film, TEOS-BPSG film and natural oxidation film as examples, is shown in Table 2. The natural oxidation film and thermal oxidation film are formed in the same way as in embodiment 1.

The TEOS-BPSG film is formed by a normal pressure CVD method, using TEOS,  $O_3$ , TMOP ( $(CH_3O)_3PO$ ), TMB ( $(CH_3O)_3B$ ) at  $400^\circ C$ .

Table 2

Chemical Composition		Etching rate (nm/min) at $25^\circ C$		
HF	$NH_4F$	Thermal	TEOS-BPSG	Natural
concentration	concentration	Oxidation	film	Oxidation
		Film		Film
0.5	39.6	9.0	36.1	45.0
0.25	39.8	5.1	22.8	28.0
0.12	41.0	3.0	11.9	13.0
0.10	41.0	2.8	6.6	9.0
0.09	39.9	2.7	9.5	11.0
0.09	17.0	2.6	27.4	36.0
0.09	40.01	2.5	8.5	9.2
0.03	42.0	1.5	2.5	4.5
0.001	42.0*	0.1	0.3	0.6

As is clear from table 2, if a chemical solution having a HF concentration of less than or equal to 0.1% by weight and a  $NH_4F$  concentration higher than 40% by weight is used, the etching rate of the TEOS-BPSG film or the thermal oxidation film are close to the etching rate of the natural oxidation film.

(Embodiment 3)

An O<sub>3</sub>-TEOS film and a PL-TEOS film were formed to 1 μm on a silicon wafer, and 0.5 μm contact holes were formed by photolithography and dry etching. Following that, resist peeling and RCA cleaning were carried out, and after that the wafer was brought into contact with the various chemical solutions shown in Table 3 for one minute, and the natural oxidation film (10 nm) was removed.

The diameter of the contact holes after processing was observed using an SEM, and the results are shown in table 3.

The O<sub>3</sub>-TESO film was formed by normal pressure CVD using TEOS and O<sub>3</sub> at 350°C.

Table 3

Chemical Composition		Contact Hole Size (μm)		
HF	NH <sub>4</sub> F	Initial	PL-TEOS	O <sub>3</sub> -TESO Film
concentration	concentration	Value	film	
0.5	39.6	0.5	0.53	0.60
0.25	39.8	0.5	0.53	0.55
0.12	41.0	0.5	0.51	0.52
0.10	41.0	0.5	0.51	0.51
0.09	39.9	0.5	0.51	0.52
0.09	17.0	0.5	0.52	0.57
0.09	41.0	0.5	0.50	0.51
0.03	42.0	0.5	0.50	0.50
0.001	45.0	0.5	0.50	0.50

As shown in Fig. 3, it will be understood that by using a chemical composition with a HF concentration of less than or equal to 0.1% by weight and a NH<sub>4</sub>F concentration in excess of 40% by weight, widening of the contact holes formed in the O<sub>3</sub>-TEOS

film and the PL-TEOS film is suppressed and it is possible to obtain the designed hole diameter.

(Embodiment 4)

Similarly to embodiment 3, 0.25  $\mu\text{m}$  contact holes were formed, and the contact hole diameter was observed using SEM after removal of a natural oxidation film using various chemical solutions, and the results are shown in Table 4.

Table 4

Chemical Composition		Contact Hole Size ( $\mu\text{m}$ )		
HF	NH <sub>4</sub> F	Initial	PL-TEOS	O <sub>3</sub> -TESO Film
concentration	concentration	Value	film	
0.5	39.6	0.25	0.28	0.33
0.25	39.8	0.25	0.27	0.30
0.12	41.0	0.25	0.26	0.28
0.10	41.0	0.25	0.25	0.26
0.09	39.9	0.25	0.26	0.27
0.09	17.0	0.25	0.27	0.32
0.09	41.0	0.25	0.25	0.26
0.03	42.0	0.25	0.25	0.25
0.001	45.0	0.25	0.25	0.25

As shown in Fig. 4, it will be understood that by using a chemical composition with a HF concentration of less than or equal to 0.1% by weight and an NH<sub>4</sub>F concentration in excess of 40% by weight, widening of the contact holes formed in the O<sub>3</sub>-TEOS film and the PL-TEOS film is suppressed, even in the case of contact holes of 0.25  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter, and it is possible to obtain the designed hole diameter.

(Embodiment 5)

It will be shown that the number of contact hole defective regions is different, depending on whether or not a surfactant is used.

5 Using a chemical having a HF concentration of 0.05% and a NH<sub>4</sub>F concentration of 42%, 0.5  $\mu$ m contact holes were formed at 25°C, and confirmation of interference color of a remaining oxide film was carried out by light microscopy.

Table 5

Thermal oxidation film:	5000Å
Positive resist film	0.7 $\mu$ m
thickness:	
Etching time:	20 minutes
Is surfactant added?	0.5 $\mu$ m contact hole defective regions (per 1000 places)
Yes	1
Yes	0
No	277
No	95

20 It was confirmed that by using the surfactant, the contact hole defective regions were significantly reduced.

(Embodiment 6)

It will be shown that the number of contact hole defective regions is different depending on the added concentration of  
25 surfactant.



Using chemicals having an HF concentration of 0.05% and an NH<sub>4</sub>F concentration of 41%, the temperature of the surfactant was varied, 0.5  $\mu$ m contact holes were formed at 25°C, and confirmation of interference color of a remaining oxide film was carried out by light microscopy.

Table 6

Added concentration of surfactant (% by weight)	0.5 $\mu$ m contact hole defective regions (per 1000 places)
0.005	1
0.002	10
0.0009	77
0.0005	138

It was confirmed that if the concentration of the surfactant is less than 0.001% by weight, the number of contact hole defects became large.

#### Industrial Applicability

Using the micromachining surface treatment material and surface processing method of the present invention, it is possible to remove a natural oxidation film occurring at the bottom of contact holes while suppressing etching of a contact hole side wall oxidation film.

Specifically, using the micromachining surface treatment material and surface processing method of the present invention, when removing a natural oxidation film, if expansion in hole

diameter is less than 5% it can be kept within the variation range of a photolithographic process. As a result, a microscopic etching process is made easy, and a processing dimension margin is maintained, which means that it is possible to achieve improvement in semiconductor manufacturing yield.

While this invention has been described as having a preferred design, the present invention can be further modified within the spirit and scope of this disclosure. This application is therefore intended to cover any variations, uses, or adaptations of the invention using its general principles. Further, this application is intended to cover such departures from the present disclosure as come within known or customary practice in the art to which this invention pertains and which fall within the limits of the appended claims.

## SPECIFICATION

## SURFACE TREATING FOR MICROMACHINING AND SURFACE TREATMENT METHOD

## 5 Technical Field

The present invention relates to a surface treating for micromachining and surface treatment method, and more specifically to a surface etching material and a surface etching method using this material that are extremely effective when used for cleaning in a wet process for microscopic processing of oxide at the time of manufacturing a semiconductor element, and for cleaning a surface or a semiconductor element surface that has been microscopically processed.

## Background Art

In wet processes for semiconductor integrated circuits, there are increasing demands for cleaning, precision and increase in speed for cleaning, etching and patterning of a wafer surface and a micromachined surface accompanying the development of integrated circuits. A mixed solution of HF and ammonium fluoride ( $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$ ) (buffered hydrofluoric acid), along with a micromachining surface treatment material essential to this process, is used for the purpose of cleaning, etching and patterning, but for ultra high integration in the submicron range there is a need to improve performance and functionality.

Particularly, with the advancement of high integration, it has become possible to make contact holes as small as  $0.25 \mu\text{m}$ , or  $0.18 \mu\text{m}$ . The number of wires and the number of manufacturing steps have also increased. Also with respect to interlayer insulation film, as well as conventional CVD films, organic TEOS films are also being used.

When this TEOS film is used, a heat treatment process is carried out at a temperature of  $500^\circ\text{C}$  -  $800^\circ\text{C}$ , but with the advancement of microscopic techniques, when making a 1 Gbit DRAM in which the wiring width and the material are limited, it is necessary for the heat treatment temperature to be kept to  $500^\circ\text{C}$  at the edge of a transistor and less than  $250 - 300^\circ\text{C}$  in the vicinity of the interlayer insulation film. If the heat

treatment temperature is lowered, a CVD oxidation film or a TEOS film etc. have an extremely slow etching rate compared to HF chemical solution.

Also, when contact holes are processed by dry etching, for example, when dry etching is carried out with, for example, a diameter of  $0.18\ \mu\text{m}$  and a depth of  $1 - 2\ \mu\text{m}$ , precedence is given to dimensional accuracy and etching shape, which means that currently etching is performed with no consideration given to damage of the bottom of the contact holes. As a result, a substrate or a polysilicon film at the bottom of the holes is subjected to damage, and in particular about  $20\ \text{nm}$  of a substrate surface approaches amorphous silicon. Also, in the vicinity of a lower  $30\ \text{nm}$  of the substrate, is doped by ion injection of CF, being a dry etching gas.

In order to eliminate this damage, or when removing resist, a cleaning stage is becoming increasingly important, and, for example, RCA cleaning is becoming absolutely essential, but if this type of cleaning is carried out a natural oxidation film is formed, and a method of removing this natural oxidation film poses a problem.

Conventionally, removal of this type of natural oxidation film mainly utilized rare HF or buffered hydrofluoric acid (BHF). In the case of BHF it was possible to use a chemical solution of, for example,  $100 : 1\text{BHF}$  ( $40\%\ \text{NH}_4\text{F} : 50\%\ \text{HF} = 100 : 1$ ) to etch a thermal oxidation film at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ , at about  $10\text{nm}/\text{min}$ .

However, when removing a natural oxidation film at the bottom of contact holes opening onto an oxidation film (a TEOS film) heat treated at a low temperature, since the etching rate of the TEOS film of a side wall having a low heat treatment temperature is extremely slow, it is possible that holes of  $0.25\ \mu\text{m}$  diameter will be widened to  $0.5\ \mu\text{m}$  after cleaning. Specifically, with rare HF or  $100 : 1\text{BHF}$ , removal of a natural oxidation film is difficult from a practical standpoint without widening the hole diameter. For this reason, conventionally, patterning was performed for a  $0.2\ \mu\text{m}$  hole and a margin was designed in to allow for widening due to etching. However, with the continuing progress with respect to fine patterning, with  $0.18$  and  $0.15\ \mu\text{m}$  design rules even that margin is not permissible.

In the removal of a natural oxidation film formed at the bottom of contact holes, it is necessary to make a selective etching ratio of the natural oxidation film etching rate to the side wall (CVD film, TEOS film etc.) etching rate large. That is, it is actually desirable to

remove only the natural oxidation film. However, from a practical standpoint, the natural oxidation film etching rate is high compared to that of the CVD film or the TEOS film, and when also taking mass production processes into consideration the time required to remove the natural oxidation film is not necessarily as short as possible. Therefore, when a wafer is processed using a wet station, in the case of an 8 inch wafer, batch processing using a cassette containing 25 wafers at one time is most common. The problem in this situation is the time to convey the wafer cassette from an etching chamber to a purified water chamber. Accordingly, the time for removing the natural oxidation film is desirably from 30 seconds to a minute, which can be mechanically controlled. Specifically, if the time taken to remove the natural oxidation film is about 10 seconds, the time that the wafer is in contact with processing fluid eventually becomes about one minute when taking into consideration over-etching time for complete removal and conveyance time. As a result, the side wall sections of the contact holes are etched for the same amount of time.

Accordingly, the object of the present invention is to provide a surface treating for micromachining and surface treatment method that fixes etching time to about one minute, slows an etching rate of a natural oxidation film as much as possible in this range of etching time, and enables a selection ratio to that for a CVD oxidation film or a TEOS film to be made small.

## Disclosure of the Invention

The micromachining surface treatment material of the present invention contains less than 0.1% hydrofluoric acid, and more than 40% by weight but less than or equal to 47% by weight of ammonium fluoride.

The micromachining surface treatment material of the present invention is manufactured by dissolving ammonia gas in a hydrofluoric acid solution.

Further, the micromachining surface treatment material of the present invention contains a surfactant at 0.0001 - 1% by weight.

The present invention also provides a surface processing method for removing a natural oxidation layer inside a contact hole using the above described micromachining surface treatment material.

Description will now be given of the reasons for compositional range limitations for each of the above described components.

A micromachining surface treatment material of the related art, particularly buffered hydrofluoric acid, is manufactured using a mixture of 40 % by weight of  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$  and 50% by weight of HF, which means that the concentration of  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$  has an upper limit of 40% by weight.

The inventors of the present invention have discovered a method of manufacturing buffered hydrofluoric acid in which a  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$  concentration is made higher than the 40% by weight of the related art by mixing  $\text{NH}_3$  gas and HF, and that  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$  at a high concentration slows the etching rate of a CVD film or TEOS film and has sufficient performance with respect to removing a natural oxidation film. However, if with greater than 45% by weight, more crystals are deposited than chemical solution, it is difficult to advance etching response and it is easy for variations to occur, so the preferred  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$  concentration is less than or equal to 45% by weight, and the upper limit is 47 % by weight.

Also, the temperature range for the chemical solution is preferably from 20 - 25°C. The temperature within the chamber is also preferably 23 - 25°C.

Specifically, with  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$  at 47% by weight and a HF concentration of 0.005% by weight, the crystal precipitation temperature becomes about 30°C and it is necessary to increase the temperature of an etching bath. It is also necessary to heat a chemical solution tank and piping, which is not practical.

Accordingly, in order to set the crystal precipitation temperature to 30°C or less the  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$  concentration is preferably 45% by weight or less.

The reason for the upper limit of 47 % by weight is as follows. Specifically, cleaning and etching itself does not cause a problem with 47% by weight of  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$ .

However, if the  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$  concentration becomes greater than 47% by weight the crystal precipitation temperature increases abruptly and control becomes difficult.

As one example, with a  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$  concentration of 49% by weight, the crystal precipitation temperature rises to 45°C. The crystal precipitation temperature rises by nearly 15°C because of a 2% change from 47% by weight to 49% by weight.

Accordingly, large errors do not arise because of the cleaning or etching capabilities

themselves, but if temperatures rise due to difficulties in control and  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$  concentration caused by chemical evaporation because of the high temperatures employed, the concentration range of  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$  that can be used has an upper limit of 47% by weight and is preferably less than or equal to 45% by weight.

5        The lower limit of the HF concentration in the micromachining surface treatment material of the present invention is 0.001% by weight. This is the concentration at which etching can be noticed. As an example, the etching rate of an oxide film is 0.001 Å/min at 25°C.

10        The micromachining surface treatment material of the present invention preferably contains a surfactant. The included amount is preferably 0.001 - 1% by weight, and more preferably 0.005% by weight to 0.1% by weight (50ppm - 1000ppm). T a concentration lower than 0.001% by weight, the effect of addition is hardly noticeable, and at greater than 1% by weight the effects are the same.

15        The reason a surfactant is included is as follows. Specifically, if a resist interval is about 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  or less, there is a problem that it is difficult for the micromachining surface treatment material to wet the oxide film, which means that uniformity of etching the oxide film is lowered, but by adding the surfactant, wettability to the resist surface is improved, an uniformity of etching the oxide film is significantly improved. Also, When an Si surface is exposed, surface roughness can be suppressed by the surfactant, and it is possible to  
20 realize a higher performance device.

25        Further, if the  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$  becomes greater than a saturation concentration crystals precipitate, but once crystals precipitate there is problem that it is difficult for the crystals to return to a uniform solution at a temperature that is slightly higher. These crystals must be removed because they cause variations such as etching unevenness in particle form, but by adding the surfactant it is possible to prevent crystal particles attaching to the surface of a wafer even if crystals do precipitate.

30        As the surfactant of the present invention, a fatty amine ( $\text{C}_n\text{H}_{2n+1}\text{NH}_2$ ;  $n=7 - 14$ ), a fatty carboxylic acid ( $\text{C}_n\text{H}_{2n+1}\text{COOH}$ ;  $n=5 - 11$ ), or a fatty alcohol ( $\text{C}_n\text{H}_{2n+1}\text{OK}$ ;  $n=6 - 12$ ) is preferably used. In particular, at least one of these three types of surfactant is preferably mixed, and preferably selected according to the  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$  concentration and HF concentration.

Also, an isostructure is possible even if the carbon chain sections of these surfactants are linear. A particularly preferred surfactant is a fatty amine and a fatty carboxylic acid.

A manufacturing method for the micromachining surface treatment material of the present invention, as described above, can be exemplified by a method for dissolving high  
 5 purity  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$  powder in HF, or a method for causing  $\text{NH}_3$  gas to be absorbed in ultra pure water, manufacturing a high purity aqueous solution of  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$  at high concentration and mixing this with 50% by weight of HF, as well as a method for causing  $\text{NH}_3$  gas to be absorbed in a HF solution (or a method for causing  $\text{NH}_3$  gas to be absorbed in a HF solution  
 10 to manufacture high concentration  $\text{NH}_4\text{F}$  and mixing this with 50% by weight of HF at a desired ratio), but a method of causing  $\text{NH}_3$  gas to be absorbed in an aqueous HF solution to obtain even higher purity is most preferred.  $\text{NH}_3$  gas is caused to be absorbed in the HF aqueous solution by surface absorption or a bubbling process.

The micromachining surface treatment material of the present invention is preferably used to remove a natural oxidation film occurring on a Si surface inside contact  
 15 holes formed inside an oxide film, as will be described later. Also, it does not matter whether or not heat treatment is carried out for the following oxidation films.

Oxidation film (dry oxidation film, wet oxidation film)

CVD oxidation film : non-doped

20 CVD oxidation film : PSG film (P-doped 1 - 8 % by weight)

CVD oxidation film : BSG film (B-doped 1 - 8 % by weight)

CVD oxidation film : AsSG film (As-doped 1 - 8 % by weight)

CVD oxidation film : BPSG film (B, P-doped 1 - 8 % by weight each)

AsSG film using ion injection : (As-doped 1 - 8 % by weight)

25 PSG film using ion injection : (P-doped 1 - 8 % by weight)

and TEOS film : non-doped film

TEOS film : non-doped film

doped TEOS film : B, P doped film, 1 - 8 % by weight each

30 Best mode for Practicing the Invention



The present invention is described in more detail in the following with reference to the embodiments, but the present invention is not limited to these embodiments.

(Embodiment 1)

An example of results of evaluating chemical composition and etching rate, taking a thermal oxidation film, plasma TESO (PL-TEOS) film and natural oxidation film as examples, is shown in Table 1.

In this embodiment, a thermal oxidation film is formed at 1000°C using pyrogenic oxidation ( $H_2 : O_2 = 1 : 1$ ). Also, a PL-TEOS film is formed by a CVD method using TEOS ( $Si(OC_2H_5)_4$ ) and oxygen gas at 400°C. A natural oxidation film is formed by dipping in a mixed solution of 98%  $H_2SO_4$  and 31%  $H_2O_2$ .

On the other hand the etching rate is obtained as follows.

A thermal oxidation film, or a CVD or TEOS type oxidation film has film thickness measured before and after immersion in chemical solution using an optical film thickness measuring device, and etching rate is calculated from the immersion time and the amount of reduction in film thickness. The natural oxidation film has its film thickness optically measured before immersion, the wafer immersion time is varied from 3 seconds, 5 seconds, 10 seconds... etc. and confirmation that the natural oxidation film was removed was carried out by observing the water repellent state of the wafer at those times, and etching rate was then calculated.

Here, the film thickness of the natural oxidation film has values that are converted to film thickness of the thermal oxidation film, from comparison of the ESCA Si peak strength and ellipsometrically measured film thickness of the thermal oxidation film and the natural oxidation film.

Table 1

Chemical Composition		Etching rate (nm/min) at 25°C		
HF concentration	NH <sub>4</sub> F concentration	Thermal Oxidation Film	PL-TEOS	Natural Oxidation Film
0.5	39.6	9.0	15.0	45.0
0.25	39.8	5.1	9.0	28.0
0.12	41.0	3.0	6.0	13.0
0.10	41.0	2.8	4.5	9.0
0.09	39.9	2.7	5.5	11.0
0.09	17.0	2.6	9.5	36.0
0.09	40.01	2.5	8.5	9.2
0.03	45.0*	2.0	3.0	6.0
0.001	45.0*	0.2	0.5	1.0

\*) The chemical composition has precipitation of crystals at 25°C, so the etching data at 35°C is shown.

5 As will be clear from table 1, if a chemical solution having a HF concentration of less than or equal to 0.1% by weight and a NH<sub>4</sub>F concentration higher than 40% by weight is used, the etching rate of the PL-TEOS or the thermal oxidation film are close to the etching rate of the natural oxidation film.

(Embodiment 2)

10 An example of evaluating chemical composition and etching rate similarly to embodiment 1, taking a thermal oxidation film, TEOS-BPSG film and natural oxidation film as examples, is shown in Table 2. The natural oxidation film and thermal oxidation film are formed in the same way as in embodiment 1.

15 The TEOS-BPSG film is formed by a normal pressure CVD method, using TEOS, O<sub>3</sub>, TMOP ((CH<sub>3</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>PO), TMB ((CH<sub>3</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>B) at 400°C.

Table 2

Chemical Composition		Etching rate (nm/min) at 25°C		
HF concentration	NH <sub>4</sub> F concentration	Thermal Oxidation Film	TEOS-BPSG film	Natural Oxidation Film
0.5	39.6	9.0	36.1	45.0
0.25	39.8	5.1	22.8	28.0
0.12	41.0	3.0	11.9	13.0
0.10	41.0	2.8	6.6	9.0
0.09	39.9	2.7	9.5	11.0
0.09	17.0	2.6	27.4	36.0
0.09	40.01	2.5	8.5	9.2
0.03	42.0	1.5	2.5	4.5
0.001	42.0*	0.1	0.3	0.6

As is clear from table 2, if a chemical solution having a HF concentration of less than or equal to 0.1% by weight and a NH<sub>4</sub>F concentration higher than 40% by weight is used, the etching rate of the TEOS-BPSG film or the thermal oxidation film are close to the etching rate of the natural oxidation film.

(Embodiment 3)

An O<sub>3</sub>-TEOS film and a PL-TEOS film were formed to 1  $\mu$  m on a silicon wafer, and 0.5  $\mu$  m contact holes were formed by photolithography and dry etching. Following that, resist peeling and RCA cleaning were carried out, and after that the wafer was brought into contact with the various chemical solutions shown in Table 3 for one minute, and the natural oxidation film (10 nm) was removed.

The diameter of the contact holes after processing was observed using an SEM, and the results are shown in table 3.

The O<sub>3</sub>-TESO film was formed by normal pressure CVD using TEOS and O<sub>3</sub> at 350°C.

Table 3

Chemical Composition		Contact Hole Size ( $\mu\text{m}$ )		
HF concentration	NH4F concentration	Initial Value	PL-TEOS film	O <sub>3</sub> -TESO Film
0.5	39.6	0.5	0.53	0.60
0.25	39.8	0.5	0.53	0.55
0.12	41.0	0.5	0.51	0.52
0.10	41.0	0.5	0.51	0.51
0.09	39.9	0.5	0.51	0.52
0.09	17.0	0.5	0.52	0.57
0.09	41.0	0.5	0.50	0.51
0.03	42.0	0.5	0.50	0.50
0.001	45.0	0.5	0.50	0.50

As shown in Fig. 3, it will be understood that by using a chemical composition with a HF concentration of less than or equal to 0.1% by weight and a NH4F concentration in excess of 40% by weight, widening of the contact holes formed in the O<sub>3</sub>-TEOS film and the PL-TEOS film is suppressed and it is possible to obtain the designed hole diameter. (Embodiment 4)

Similarly to embodiment 3, 0.25  $\mu\text{m}$  contact holes were formed, and the contact hole diameter was observed using SEM after removal of a natural oxidation film using various chemical solutions, and the results are shown in Table 4.

Table 4

Chemical Composition		Contact Hole Size ( $\mu\text{m}$ )		
HF concentration	NH4F concentration	Initial Value	PL-TEOS film	O <sub>3</sub> -TESO Film
0.5	39.6	0.25	0.28	0.33
0.25	39.8	0.25	0.27	0.30
0.12	41.0	0.25	0.26	0.28
0.10	41.0	0.25	0.25	0.26
0.09	39.9	0.25	0.26	0.27
0.09	17.0	0.25	0.27	0.32

0.09	41.0	0.25	0.25	0.26
0.03	42.0	0.25	0.25	0.25
0.001	45.0	0.25	0.25	0.25

As shown in Fig. 4, it will be understood that by using a chemical composition with a HF concentration of less than or equal to 0.1% by weight and an NH<sub>4</sub>F concentration in excess of 40% by weight, widening of the contact holes formed in the O<sub>3</sub>-TEOS film and the PL-TEOS film is suppressed even in the case of contact holes of 0.25  $\mu$ m in diameter, and it is possible to obtain the designed hole diameter.

(Embodiment 5)

It will be shown that the number of contact hole defective regions is different depending on whether or not a surfactant is used.

Using a chemical having a HF concentration of 0.05% and a NH<sub>4</sub>F concentration of 42%, 0.5  $\mu$ m contact holes were formed at 25°C, and confirmation of interference color of a remaining oxide film was carried out by light microscopy.

Thermal oxidation film : 5000 Å

Positive resist film thickness: 0.7  $\mu$ m

Etching time: 20 minutes

Is surfactant added? 0.5  $\mu$ m contact hole defective regions (per 1000 places)

Yes 1

Yes 0

No 277

No 95

It was confirmed that by using the surfactant, the contact hole defective regions were significantly reduced.

(Embodiment 6)

It will be shown that the number of contact hole defective regions is different depending on the added concentration of surfactant.

Using chemicals having an HF concentration of 0.05% and an NH<sub>4</sub>F concentration of 41%, the temperature of the surfactant was varied, 0.5  $\mu$  m contact holes were formed at 25°C, and confirmation of interference color of a remaining oxide film was carried out by light microscopy.

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Added concentration of surfactant (% by weight)	0.5 $\mu$ m contact hole defective regions (per 1000 places)
0.005	1
0.002	10
0.0009	77
0.0005	138

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It was confirmed that if the concentration of the surfactant is less than 0.001% by weight, the number of contact hole defects became large.

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#### Industrial Applicability

Using the micromachining surface treatment material and surface processing method of the present invention, it is possible to remove a natural oxidation film occurring at the bottom of contact holes while suppressing etching of a contact hole side wall oxidation film.

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Specifically, using the micromachining surface treatment material and surface processing method of the present invention, when removing a natural oxidation film, if expansion in hole diameter is less than 5% it can be kept within the variation range of a photolithographic process. As a result, a microscopic etching process is made easy, and a processing dimension margin is maintained, which means that it is possible to achieve improvement in semiconductor manufacturing yield.

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## Claims

1. A micromachining surface treatment material containing less than 0.1% hydrofluoric acid, and more than 40% by weight but less than or equal to 47% by weight of ammonium fluoride.
- 5 2. The micromachining surface treatment material of claim 1, manufactured by dissolving ammonia gas in a hydrofluoric acid solution.
3. The micromachining surface treatment material of claim 1 or claim 2, containing a surfactant at 0.0001 - 1% by weight.
4. The micromachining surface treatment material of claim 3, said surfactant is one of,  
10 or two or more of, a fatty amine ( $C_nH_{2n+1}NH_2$ ;  $m=7-14$ ), a fatty carboxylic acid ( $C_nH_{2n+1}COOH$ ;  $n=5-11$ ), or a fatty alcohol ( $C_nH_{2n+1}OK$ ;  $n=6-12$ ).
5. A surface treatment method that removes a natural oxidation layer inside contact holes using the micromachining surface treatment material of any one of claims 1 to 3.
6. The surface treatment method of claim 5, wherein the diameter of the contact holes  
15 is less than or equal surface treatment method of claim 5 or claim 6, wherein the contact holes open to an oxidation film.
8. The surface treatment method of any one of claim 5 to claim 7, wherein the oxidation film is a CVD type oxidation film.
9. The surface treatment method of any one of claim 5 to claim 7, wherein the  
20 oxidation film is a TEOS type oxidation film.

# ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

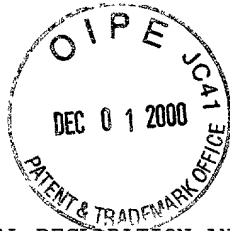
The present invention provides a micromachining surface treatment material for and a surface treatment method that suppress widening of the diameter of contact holes when removing a natural oxidation layer arising at bottom sections of the contact holes. The micromachining surface treatment material contains less than 0.1% hydrofluoric acid, and more than 40% by weight but less than or equal to 47% by weight of ammonium fluoride. Also, a surfactant is contained therein in an amount from 0.0001 to 0.1% by weight.



## Abstract

The present invention provides a micromachining surface treatment material for and a surface treatment method that suppress widening of the diameter of contact holes when removing a natural oxidation layer arising at bottom sections of the contact holes.

- 5        The micromachining surface treatment material contains less than 0.1% hydrofluoric acid, and more than 40% by weight but less than or equal to 47% by weight of ammonium fluoride. Also, a surfactant is contained in an amount from 0.0001 to 0.1 % by weight.



31 DEC 2000

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PCT/USA NATIONAL DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY  
FOR U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS  
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
UNDER 35 U.S.C. SECTION 371(c) (4)

As a below named inventor, we hereby declare that:

Our residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name:

I verily believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or a joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the invention described and claimed in international application No. PCT/JP99/00936 entitled: SURFACE TREATING FOR MICROMACHINING AND METHOD FOR SURFACE TREATMENT and as amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if any), which I have reviewed, and I understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above and for which I solicit a patent; that I do not know and do not believe that this invention was ever known or used in the United States of America before my or our invention or discovery thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my or our invention or discovery thereof, or more than one year prior to my international application; that this invention was not in public use or on sale in the United States of America for more than one year prior to my international application; that this invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of my international application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months before my international application; that I acknowledge my duty to disclose information of which I am aware which is material to the examination of this application; and that prior to filing said international application, applications for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention of discovery which have been filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns in any country foreign to the United States of America are as follows:

(a) none filed more than 12 months prior to said international application,  
unless named below:

(b) earliest filed less than 12 months prior to said international application  
(the priority of which is hereby claimed under 35 U.S.C. Section 365):

JP 10-48019 filed February 27, 1998

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120, of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a), which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby appoint Randall J. Knuth, Regis. No. 34,644 and Victor F. Lohmann, III, Regis. No. 33,951 of the firm of RANDALL J. KNUTH, P.C., as attorney(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

I declare further that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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